

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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FOL RPT NAIROBI 10408 ACTION SECSTATE BONN 16 AUG 77 QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAIROBI 10408

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CARR, UG

SUBJECT: THREE AMERICANS REPORTED DETAINED IN UGANDA

1. ASSOCIATED PRESS STRINGER IN NAIROBI LEARNED FROM UGANDAN REFUGEE THAT THREE AMERICANS WERE REPORTEDLY ARRESTED IN KAMPALA ON AUGUST 4 AND ARE APPARENTLY STILL DETAINED.

2. ACCORDING TO THE REFUGEE SOURCE, WHO WAS A DESK CLERK AT THE FAIRWAY HOTEL IN KAMPALA, THE THREE AMERICANS WERE:

RICHARD SANKY, AGE ABOUT 26

GEORGE MILTRON SMITH, SOMEWHAT OLDER

AUSTIN BROWN, SOMEWHAT OLDER

NO FURTHER IDENTIFYING DETAILS AVAILABLE.

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3. AMERICANS TRAVELING IN JEEP-TYPE NON-UGANDAN VEHICLE CHECKED INTO HOTEL EVENING AUGUST 3 AND WERE ASSIGNED TO ROOMS 1619 AND 1620. (THIS MAY BE GARBLE -- COULD BE 16, 19 AND 20). THEY APPARENTLY SPENT THE NIGHT WITH THREE LOCAL GIRLS. THE FOLLOWING MORNING, TWO STATE RESEARCH BUREAU PERSONNEL WHO LIVE IN THE HOTEL IN ROOMS 51 AND 71, NAMED HARUNA SEBI AND ABUD OGWALA, QUESTIONED THE DESK CLERK

ABOUT THE THREE MEN. THE SRB AGENTS THEN WENT TO THE ROOMS OF THE AMERICANS, WHERE THE GIRLS WERE EVIDENTLY STILL WITH THEM. THE AMERICANS WERE TAKEN AWAY TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION IN A RANGE ROVER, REGISTRATION NUMBER UVS-560.

4. THE DESK CLERK WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PICKED UP AND DETAINED A FEW DAYS. HE WAS TAKEN TO MAKINDYE PRISON AND SAYS THE GRAPEVINE THRERE INDICATED THE AMERICANS WERE NOT RPT NOT BROUGHT TO THAT LOCATION. AFTER THE DESK CLERK WAS RELEASED, HE FOUND THAT THE JEEP-TYPE VEHICLE IN WHICH THE AMERICANS WERE TRAVELING HAD BEEN TAKEN AWAY, BUT LOCAL PEOPLE SAID THE AMERICANS THEMSELVES HAD NOT REAPPEARED. THE DESK CLERK ARRIVED IN NAIROBI ON AUGUST 13 AS A REFUGEE, SINCE HIS DETENTION MADE HIM FEAR FOR HIS LIFE.

5. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO PASS SOME OF FOREGOING TO FRG EMBASSY KAMPALA BY PHONE. REQUEST AMEMBASSY BONN PROVIDE DETAILS ABOVE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR TRANSMISSION TO FRG EMBASSY KAMPALA.

6. AP NAIROBI DOES NOT PLAN TO FILE STORY, AT LEAST FOR A COUPLE DAYS, TO ENABLE QUIET INQUIRIES TO BE MADE.

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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